

# The Heart of God

Luke 15:1–7

**Big Idea:** The heart of God beats for **the one**. He loves **the lost**, pursues **the wandering**, rescues **the broken**, and rejoices when they come **home**.

## Introduction / Context

- Luke 15 is Jesus' response to the **Pharisees' criticism** (vv. 1–2).
- Jesus tells three parables: the **lost sheep**, the **lost coin**, and the **lost son**.
- Each reveals the heart of God: **Lost** → **Found** → **Joy**.

## 1. God Loves Sinners (v. 4)

- The shepherd notices one **missing** sheep.
- God's love isn't **statistical**; it's **personal**.
- “God's love is not general—it's **particular**.”
- **Romans 5:8:** “While we were still **sinners**, Christ died for us.”
- Application: Don't believe the lie that you're too **far** gone.

## 2. God Pursues Sinners (v. 4)

- The shepherd leaves the **99** to seek the **one**.
- “Lost” (Greek *apollumi*) = **ruined, perishing**.
- **John 3:16:** “...that whoever believes in Him should not **perish** (*apollumi*)....”
- **Luke 19:10:** “The Son of Man came to **seek** and **save** the lost.”

- Quote: “All other religions say man must go to **God**; Christianity says **God** comes to man.”

### 3. God Rescues Sinners (v. 5)

- The shepherd doesn’t **punish** the sheep; he **carries** it.
- God’s rescue is **tender**, not **harsh**.
- Jesus’ rescue reveals **compassion**, not **condemnation**.
- Application: How do you view God—as **punisher** or **rescuer**?

### 4. God Rejoices When Sinners Repent (vv. 6–7)

- The shepherd calls friends to **celebrate**.
- Heaven’s party is not over moral **effort** but over **repentance**.
- If heaven rejoices over the lost being **found**, so should we.
- The joy of heaven is our model for **mission**.

### Application / Challenge

- Luke 15 doesn’t just reveal God’s heart—it calls us to **share** it.
- Evangelism isn’t a **program**; it’s a **lifestyle**.
- “You can’t be for the **city** until you’re for the **one**.”
- When was the last time you pursued someone far from God?

### Reflection and Response

1. How does your view of God align with Jesus’ picture of the **Shepherd**?

2. Do you love what heaven **loves**?
3. Who is the “**one**” God is calling you to pursue?
4. What step will you take this week to share God’s heart for the **lost**?